

The private journal of - THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY

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BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD.

January, 9, 1956.

Dear Dot;

The little Pictures are very beautiful
and appreciated, and are
decorating bright spots at home.Many thanks,
Bing.

B.C., S.W.

A FEW WORDS FROM DOT.

Hello Friends, - It seems ages since I last had a few words with you. I hope you are all well and happy and looking forward to some nice sunny weather.

Thank you for your nice letters, if I'm a bit late in replying, please forgive me. You will hear from me in due course.

Above is the letter received from Bing thanking you all for the wonderful Christmas Present. In another letter Bing tells us that "Anything Goes" will be released about Easter time and that the 1½ hour T.V. Film "High Tor" which he made for the Ford Motor Company will be out in March and will probably be shown in England. Then Larry wrote to say that Bing was planning a European vacation and would be visiting Britain in Spring or early Summer.

You will probably have read that Bing, along with Bob Hope has been invited to the Wedding of Miss Grace Kelly and Prince Ranier of Monarco in April. As this Wedding is to be televised, we may have the thrill of seeing Bing on our home screens once more. As we do not know just when our boy will be setting foot on British soil, we cannot arrange anything at present, but if a meeting with him does become possible before the next issue of "Post" we will issue a special News-Letter giving full details.

CLUB MEETING

This brings me to news of a Grand Club Meeting that has been arranged for the weekend of May 26-27. Frank will be visiting London then, and we have decided to have a big get-together on this occasion. All Club officers will be present and we would like as many of you as possible to come along. Ron Davies will be giving one of his popular Film Shows at the home of our Discologist, Bill Taylor, who has kindly offered the use of his spacious lounge for the occasion. This will be on the Saturday, May 26 - evening, but for those who cannot make it, Ron will give another show at his own home on the Sunday - May 27 - afternoon. Will those of you who would like to attend this meeting, please write to me enclosing a s.a.e., and I will let you have full details as soon as possible.

Now one or two of you seem to be under the impression that you should be receiving a "Post" every month. We explained to you some time ago that a monthly edition was too heavy on postage, envelopes, etc., and that instead of issuing a 6-page monthly edition we had decided to issue a 12-page bi-monthly one, and so ease the drain on our precious

Funds. As you get a double issue every 8-weeks, you are not losing anything, and in my opinion the Journal has improved considerably owing to the fact that we can now devote more time and attention to the selection and preparation of the contents. The majority of Fan-Clubs issue only four journals a year, so you are still on top.

We may shortly have to increase the subscription fees as printing costs are now so high that members are actually getting 6d more than they put in. Without the generous donations we receive from time to time we would be running at a loss. I know you will agree that we cannot carry on like this. However, this will be one of the debating points at the May Meeting, and we will publish a statement in our June edition. Our grateful thanks to those sending us 10/- renewal fees.

Several of your letters ask for news of our Honorary Members so we are introducing a new feature this month "Spotlight on our Honoraries", which we hope will prove a welcome addition to your very newsy mag.

For the benefit of new members I would like to mention that snaps of Bing and his Family, previously issued with the Club Magazine are available price 1/- each. Please send s.a.e. for list. The proceeds are in aid of Club Funds.

Well this ends my Croz-Talk for April and now I will hand you over to our capable Editor who will give you news of our March "Boost Bing" campaign and the raffle. Hearty congratulations to the winners and thanks to all those co-operating with us in this very worthy cause.

I hope to have the pleasure of meeting some of you in May so until then, Cheerio and happy listening.

Bingcerely - Dot.

MAY MEETING - FILM SHOW NEWS by Ron.Davies.

On Saturday evening - May 26, 1956 - Dot, Frank, Stan., Ted and I, will be gathered in the spacious lounge of the home of Bill Taylor. On this memorable occasion I shall present two of Bing Crosby's early Mack Sennet Short Films "Sing Bing Sing" and "Blue of the Night". Produced in 1931 when the famous voice was undoubtedly at it's best. All members who'd like to attend should contact Dot for further details.

Quick P.S. from Frank.

I would just like to endorse Dot's remarks and say how much I am looking forward to meeting you in May and also many thanks for the wonderful letters you sent me during the past two months. I'm glad you liked the snap and I greatly appreciate your kind remarks. One letter made me laugh out loud. It was from Miss Pauline McGoldrick, 32, Avondale Road, Morecambe, Lancs, who said: "The Frank Murphy I had in mind was rather plump, with a David Nixon hair style". Well! Anyway, I wrote back to Pauline telling her I was glad I had quashed that illusion - Ha. Ha. All the best Bingsters, Sincerely, Frank.

NEWS FROM AMERICA by PAT SULLIVAN

Hi ! My name is Pat Sullivan. I've been your American Correspondent for three issues of the "Post" already so I think it's high time I wrote and told all of you how happy I am to be part of your organization. Ever since 1953, when Dot began sending me copies of your British Crosby Society paper, I've been fascinated by the activities of your very active group. Your fresh and new ideas as to a Boost Bing campaign, club disc, and get-together of members to view screenings of Bing's movies, etc.; and your discussions as led by Colin, Frank, and now Bill of British views regarding Bing's recordings have made intriguing reading and I'm very proud to get in on your "Swing with Bing" with the latest news from America.

On March 10th Bing appeared on the Ford Star Jubilee television presentation of "High Tor", the musical version of Maxwell Anderson's famous play and, if rumors are correct, the film will soon be released throughout Europe as a regular motion picture. The cast includes your own Julie Andrews as well as Nancy Olson and Everett Sloane. Record collectors will be interested to know that Decca has issued the sound track album of the show, as well as the Decca single (29817) of "When You're in Love" and "John Barleycorn", two excellent new sides by Bing. Other recent Decca releases which I hope you will be hearing soon on the Brunswick label are "The Next Time It Happens" and "The First Snowfall" and "In a Little Spanish Town" & "Ol' Man River". These last two were taken directly from a recent Crosby radio broadcast and are quite novel arrangements by Buddy Cole of these two old numbers. Also slated for release soon are the song, "Something in Common"

(Bing's new theme song on radio), and the sound track album of "Anything Goes." Rumors have it that the "High Society" album will be done on Capitol Records. Since all the other stars in the film are under contract to Capitol, Bing will make that one album for that label in order that they may take the songs directly from the picture's sound track.

The most exciting news this month is, of course, Bing's vacation plans and, by the time you read this, he'll probably already be in your midst. With the twins in Germany and Garry's plan to wind up his Australian tour in Europe, it looks like you'll have the whole family over there. All the news the next few months will, therefore, undoubtedly be coming from you, and I'll be looking forward to reading all about it in the "Post." In the meantime, I'm enclosing the very latest in news items prior to Bing's departure and will leave it up to Dot to select the ones she wishes to print. Here they are:-

NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM

Bing Crosby has been reporting at MGM for conferences on "High Society" and really giving a Fashion Show. First day Bing arrived in faded blue Jeans, open shirt and blue visor cap. Next day he topped his sailcloth jacket and slacks with a pink cap.

Debbie Reynolds almost missed getting back to the Set of "The Catered Affair" on time; Debbie wouldn't leave the commissary until her favourite singer, Bing, arrived. And she's got a top singer right in her house.

Milwaukee Journal - Jan 23 - 56. ARMY REGIMENT GETS SONG, THANKS TO BING. Wuerzburg, Germany - The 86th Infantry Regiment of the United States 10th Division now has it's own song, written in Hollywood by two of the movies best known composers. The Song, "The 86th ! The 86th!" was written by songwriters Jimmy Van Heuson and Sammy Cahn, at the request of Bing Crosby. Crosby's son, Dennis, is a Private in the 86th. LEONARD LYONS COLUMN - NEW YORK POST - March 7 1956.

Bing Crosby's deal with CBS - TV for the 90-Minute Musical, "High Tor", gives him ownership of the film after the TV Rights are exhausted. He was asked what he planned to do with the Film. "If it's well received, I'll show it in Movie Theatres around Europe", said Crosby. "If it isn't, I might cut it up, and make guitar picks."

ARMY WILL REUNITE BING CROSBY'S TWINS - Milwaukee Journal March 16 -56. Fort Dix, New Jersey - Pvt. Phillip Crosby, 21 year old son of crooner Bing Crosby, arrived here Friday en route to join his Twin Brother on army duty overseas. His brother, Dennis, is stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany.

A Public Information Officer said that it was army policy to assign twins together, whenever possible.

Owing to pressure of space and also our late going to press date, a number of important items from Pat have been deleted from the above News-Letter. However, these will appear in our next issue. Among these tasty News items are "Union of Frank and Bing". "Bing Jockeyed into Phone-Tape Disc." "Garry Sings on his Own". "Gary follows along Bing's Road to Fame". Plus of course, all the usual "Crosby Post" features.

C R O S B Y P O S T presents "SPOTLIGHT ON OUR HONORARIES".

This Month featuring the Star of "RAYS A LAUGH"

T E D R A Y

Hello Bing Fans, just a line or two to let you know what I'll be doing, now, and in the future.

I've just completed "MY WIFE'S FAMILY" (in Colour) for A.B.C. co-starring with Ronnie Shiner and Greta Gynt.

At the moment I'm doing "RAY'S A LAUGH" on "Steam" Radio. In April I'll be commencing a new T.V. series for the B.B.C., and in between all of this I'll be sandwiching an overland trip to Italy and Cannes in early May (Holiday).

Also odd personal appearances in Variety all over the country and occasionally writing short stories.

"Ray's A Laugh" returns to the Air in October.

In August and September I'll be doing 6 T.V. Shows for I.T.V.

TED RAY (Cont'd.)

And finally, helping Mrs. Ray with the washing-up !! Phew !.
Best to you and the Bing Family.

Yours sincerely,
TED RAY.

Many thanks, Ted Ray, for a wonderful, informal, and informative
insite to your future plans. We wish you good luck in all these ven-
tures. We must also mention that we are following with great interest,
the career of your son, Andrew. Ed.

BING TOPS POLL IN "HOUSEWIFE'S CHOICE"

The British Press have certainly given prominence to the fact that
Bing Crosby is the most requested artist on this widely listened to
record programme and during the recent celebrations carried out during
the 10th anniversary of the programme every paper quoted Bing as the
most requested Star - we of the Crosby Society are grateful to the
British Press for these well-timed tributes which coincided with our
March Publicity Campaign. One tribute which appeared is Godfrey Winn's
Daily Sketch Column went like this:-

....."I can tell you who the favourite singer is, whose name crops up
more often than any other on the post-cards - Bing Crosby. And I can
tell you the reason, too-

Not because he's got a better voice, or sense of rhythm than all
the others but because he possesses a quality that cannot be faked
and outlasts the years. SINCERITY.

A WORD FROM MEMBER MICHAEL O'TOOLE - Sorrento House, Adelaide Road,
Bray, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

Dear Bing Fans,-This item in the Dublin papers may interest you. It
has since been confirmed by Bing's pal George O'Rielly.

My sincere regards to you all,
MICHAEL O'TOOLE.

.....

HOLLYWOOD WELCOMES FOR IRISH SINGERS

The Irish Festival Singers, now touring the U.S. and Canada have writ-
ten from Hollywood, where they have met Grace Kelly, Bing Crosby, Pat
O'Brian and other Film Actors.

The letter went on: "Then came a call from Bing Crosby. He invited
us all to Lunch with him at the M.G.M. Studios next day, and had the
whole group collected at the hotel and brought there. Bing asked if we
would like to see a scene being shot, and in due course we were taken
to the centre of operations. There they found Bing with Frank Sinatra
and Grace Kelly. They were photographed with the three and Celeste Holm.
The letter paid high tribute to Mr. Crosby, "Who left nothing undone to
make our day one to remember. And all done so unobtrusively and with
such genuine friendliness.

He told the singers that he was coming to Ireland in the summer and
was looking forward to meeting Father Murphy, C.C. Booterstown.
The Singers made a recording of five songs for Bing Crosby's St. Patrick's
Day Coast-to-Coast programme.

Bing was curious to know in what part of Dublin Booterstown was and
if it were near a Golf Course.

A CHARMING TRIBUTE IN POEM, FROM MEMBER, JOHNNIE HOPKINS, 17, MOUNT-
ASSUMPTIA, BALLINA, CO. MAYO, IRELAND.

"HIS MAJESTY KING BING"

The Greatest Entertainer is still our dear Old Bing
Amongst the Crooners of to-day he still remains the King
Through the years he has guided many songs along the way
Songs like "Tenderly", "Just One More Chance" and "If I Had My Way"
Down through the years. Those golden years he's put those songs on top
As he will do for many more before he calls a stop
And whether it's a Ballad or something with a swing
It's sure to be a great Record, because it's done by Bing
As we listen to the Radio and hear our Favourite sing
We understand how he got the title -

His Majesty King Bing.

Johnnie Hopkins.

REQUESTS OF THE MONTH.

Bing's New Brunswick release "In A Little Spanish Town", and "Ol Man River",
are getting rave notices from the Press. We think this is the one we have
been waiting for - it certainly has that Hit-Parade quality. Boost this

Bing Members.. Send it right to the top !. We suggest you concentrate your Post-Cards on the B.B.C. and Radio Luxemburg "Request Programmes".

STAN SPEAKING.

Hello there. Three hours 46 minutes of Bing on five 12-inch L.Ps. is a lot of Bing: Yet many of our members have this mammoth "Bing session" on their record shelves, for it is the total playing time of "BING", a musical Autobiography.

Much controversy has been caused over this musical autobiography because many of the older songs have been re-recorded and now have Bing singing with the Buddy Cole trio. Many people like member Walt Liner and "Melody Maker's", Laurie Henshaw prefer the original recordings made by the young Bing Crosby. I must say that although I like the older Bing records, I much prefer the present day Bing. I for one am very pleased with the earlier bunch of songs in the album were re-recorded, Bing's voice today is richer and more mellow than in his earlier years also although many of his early records are "Collectors Pieces", not only for the Bing value but for the many famous instrumentalists who played on the records with him. The fact remains that the Orchestrations on some of these early Bing's sounds terribly dated, the re-recording with Buddy Cole's group has changed all this. Buddy's accompaniment to Bing's singing is such that the recordings will be acceptable for as long as people are interested in Bing Crosby.

These comments are also applicable to the 10 inch L.P. "SOME FINE OLD CHESTNUTS". Once again Bing is supported by Buddy Cole, somehow the recordings made with this fine musician seem to be so much more informal than the standard big band backing on so many records.

Maybe some of you members would like to state your views on the above controversy. Member Yvonne Francis informs me that David Gell played over Radio Luxemburg the Tuesday before Xmas; the record she requested for her brother in Canada, "WHITE CHRISTMAS". Yvonne goes on to ask if I've read the book written by Ted Crosby and published by the World Wide Publishing Company, called; "THE BING CROSBY STORY" (Not to be confused with Bing's own "CALL ME LUCKY") Yvonne says it's well worth reading. I agree that it must be and intend to obtain a copy; Thanks for the information Yvonne.

The B.B.C. in reply to the request I have made for them to put on "THE BING CROSBY SHOW" followed the DORIS DAY series, have informed me that this is very doubtful because of all kinds of circumstances that govern the exchange of music across the Atlantic, however H. Rooney Pelletier, controller of the Light Programme goes on to inform me that they will continue at frequent intervals to present the 15 minutes of "BING SINGS" which they have broadcast for many years past.

Member Harry Marrs of Stapleton often writes in to me to say how well Bing's records sell his way. Harry informs me that the Cinemas are always full when a Bing film is showing, which Harry says is often. I hope that by the time you read this Harry, you will be in possession of the "BING" autobiography records. I truly appreciate the information which is sent to me by members in their letters which are always welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity of reminding members that information about Bing's records, whether you are giving it or wanting it, is really Bill Taylor's department. As you know, Bill is our very capable "Discologist" and therefore is more likely to satisfy your requirements than me. As a point of interest Bill and I do not write letters to each other, we both have Tape-Recorders and simply send back and forth a recording of what we wish to say.

All for now.

STAN.

PART(4) BING - GOES THAT CROSBY MYTH - Presented with acknowledgements to - PHOTOPLAY

The devotion that Bing's sons feel for him is a natural return for the affection he has lavished on them all their lives. In his studio dressing-room and his office, the story's there for any visitor to see. Except for pictures of Dixie and his mother and his horses and himself (hoisting his biggest fish) the walls are papered with photos of the boys at every age and on just about every imaginable occasion.

But it's well-known that Bing can be a firm disciplinarian, too, and that he has done his best to keep his fame from interfering with his sons' lives. At School shindigs, he always tried hard to remain in the background. When photographers closed in on him, he would protest, "Look - I've got nothing to do with this. I'm just here like any other

father. This isn't my show". An important magazine once tried to high-pressure him with the reminder of all they could do for Gary. "That's exactly what I don't want", he told them emphatically. "I want Gary to be just like any other normal kid going through school. These things make it very hard for him.

Consistently, Bing has shown strong parental interest in his son's grades at school - and in seeing that they kept the nightly curfews at home. They admit to having been "Grounded" on occasion in the past, for periods varying with "The Gravity of the offence", and at the time each probably felt a boy's natural resentment. They understand now. As Gary says, "He no spare-the-rod-and-spoil-the-child-father, but any time I ever got a licking I had it coming. I'm happy I was brought up that way, rather than the spoiled and pampered deal. That would have made it a whole lot tougher later on - like now, with the show ahead of me". Gary's heart has always been in Show business, set to the same beat that impelled his dad towards Hollywood. The public discovered Gary when he sang "Dear Hearts and Gentle People" on the Crosby Show five years ago. At the general reaction, a forecast of Gary's future, Bing certainly felt fatherly pride. But mixed with it was some measure of fatherly fear over the effect this might have on the school years ahead and the sort of future Gary's parents wanted for him.

It's typical of Bing, that once he realised there were no sheepskins in sight, he let Gary set his own course. Without making a production of it, Bing gave his son his own time slot last summer and backed him up with his own trusty radio crew. It's typical, too, that he had one parental admonition before Gary took off. "Keep it in good taste", he said.

Ask Gary whether, as a newcomer in Show business, he has any kicks about being Bing's Boy. You'll get: "Kicks ??? I'd be out of my mind !. Sure, some people want to compare me with Dad - but I could be compared with a lot worse. Nobody's got a voice like his, and in thirty years nobody's ever been able to cultivate one. I don't mean to say it's all roses", Gary adds conscientiously. "There are a few thorns. There are always some wiseacres, who give you that routine about being just 'Bing Crosby's son'. But the roses sure choke out the thorns. I'd never have gotten that break last summer - having my own show - it it hadn't been for him."

Now Bing is taking more than a casual interest in his son's career. "Gary never did much in Show business until last year", he says, "A few Radio shots. A few records. He's had no experience with the public or working in front of people. He didn't start out in radio with the experience that I had or that Sinatra or any of the rest of us had - a ten year stretch in vaudeville or Night-Clubs or with Bands. He broke in with practically no experience at all. It was quite a jump for him - maybe too much. But he's getting under way now". After appearances on "Tennessee" Ernie Ford's Show beginning in March, Gary again gets his own Show this Summer, and C.B.S. plans for him also include Guest shots on T.V.

As the oldest boy, Gary has naturally been in the public eye more than his brothers. But Bing's fatherly heart makes no such differentiation among his four sons. The twins are in the service, and Bing keeps the warm newsy letters rolling towards them, along with batches of oatmeal cookies. "The Kids like to get them from home. Phil's still taking basic training at Ford Ord. Denny's finishing his Basic at Ford Riley, Kansas, and he's going into G.2 Military Intelligence. "If he shows any aptitude for that, he'll be going to Germany this summer".

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To be concluded in our June Edition of "Crosby Post".

HFRCC.

HFRCC

THE HILLBILLY-FOLK RECORD COLLECTORS CLUB.

Subscription. UK 8/-. USA \$1.20, per four issues of the club journal published every quarter. Packed full of interesting information for the serious record collector. Biographies, old and new record listings, adverts, record reviews etc etc. Do not delay, join now and make sure of obtaining your copy by forwarding your subscription to either of the following addresses.

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FRANK PRESENTS :- "MY TOP TEN" BING CROSBY RECORDS.

You know I can't help feeling I've set myself an almost hopeless task here, in attempting to name my ten favourite Bing Records. I have taken each favourite from it's own particular section: i.e., "Hailan Paradise" in ^{No} 3 position is my favourite Hailan recording. And so, on to my top favourites: with their initial recording dates:

- (1) "I found a Million Dollar Baby" - 12 June 1931.
This superb example of Bing's early style must take first place: Here is the Crosby voice sweeping from low to high notes without any apparent effort. Whoever dubbed Cab Callaway "King of Scat Singers" should give a listen to this classic.
- (2) "Cabin in the Pines" 21.8.1933.
The atmosphere created on this record is so real that one can almost visualise Bing riding to his cabin in the pines.
- (3) Hailan Paradise 4 - August 1936.
Such timing ! Such perfect phrasing ! One line which never fails to send me is when Bing breaks into the Hawiian Accompaniment with the line "And Love is Young".
- (4) "Top of your Head" 14 - August 1935.
Bing featured this song in "Two for Tonight" and is joined on this recording by Tommy Dorsey's great group of the 'Thirties'. It's a bouncy tune which is given the full "Rock" treatment by the master.
- (5) "That Little Dream Got Nowhere" - 17 August 1945.
With a dreamy musical background Bing croons one of his most relaxed efforts - lines like: "Sunday morning papers and a Porch with a view" make you wish you were doing just that.
- (6) "Me and the Moon". - 19 August 1936.
Here is a delightful, pleasant to listen to, recording - Bing is at his happy go lucky best on this number, I think.
- (7) "Shine".
Back in the classic early thirties period we find Bing and the famous Mills Brothers - its evident that at this early stage Bing's voice had not yet reached maturity. My favourite line is when Bing tells the solo Mills Brother to "Ah, Keep on Smiling".
- (8) "Where the Blue of the Night". - 23 November 1931.
'Top Ten' wouldn't be complete without the world's best known signature tune. This early recording is my favourite version.
- (9) "Yall Come". 14 November 1953.
Following in the trail of "Country Style" Bing excels himself on this number. Bing must think a lot of this number himself, as this is the tune he closes his fabulous L.P.set with.
- (10) "Swanee River". 21 - February, 1935.
Bing sang this wonderful Stephen Foster song in "Mississippi". The Crosby voice has no 'limited range' in those early days and this number is given the full treatment here by the peerless Bing.
And there you have it, my Top Ten. In our next issue Ted will present this feature.

MEMBER - SHEILA WILLETT - ANNOUNCEMENT.

Ed., Sheila writes to tell me she would like to hold a Bing Session at her home, 32, Thursley Road, Motttingham, S.E.9., on a Saturday evening - If any of our London and District members would like to attend, would you contact Sheila at the above address so that a date can be fixed.

I bet Sheila and fellow-member Jean Gosling who lives at No.23, in the same street spend some enjoyable times together.

OPEN LETTER TO THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY from ANNE SHELTON.

Dear Mr.Laker,

May I thank you for your letter, regarding my programme "The Song's the Thing" as you will know I was unable to play my record with Bing owing to Copyright. The B.B.C. are very funny this way. However, I intend to play it at a later date.

Bing is my Number One singer and always will be, and we are very good friends. The first time that I met Bing was during the War, and he asked me to do an appearance with him for the Forces. This is the Recording I have. He had it taken down and sent to me. I also met him on my last visit to America.

My very best wishes to your Club and Bing Crosby will always be the Daddy of all Singers.

Yours,

ANNE SHELTON.

Our American Correspondent - Pat Sullivan would like to purchase the following Brunswick recordings of Bing Crosby.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| (1) "Moonlight and Shadows" | (2) "In the Mission by the Sea" |
| "What will I tell my Heart" | "I Still love to Kiss you Good-night". |
| (3) "Let's tie the old Forget-me-not" | (4) "Little Sir Echo" |
| "Between a Kiss and a Sigh". | "Lonesome Road". |
| (5) "Just a Kid named Joe". | (6) "Skylark" |
| "It's a Lonely Trail". | "Humpty Dumpty Heart" |
| (7) "Constantly" | (8) "Darling Je Vous Aime Beaucoup" |
| "Aint Got a Dime to my Name". | "I'll be Yours". |
| (9) "Beautiful Love" | |
| "We'll Gather Lilacs" | |

Please contact Pat (address on page one, if you can supply any of these items

NEWCASTLE EVENING CHRONICLE - Wednesday Feb.29 - 1956.

N-E Housewives chose again by June Birson.

A record request for a young Newcastle woman for her mother started off the Radio Programme "Housewives Choice" ten years ago.

On Monday March 5, the programme celebrates it's tenth anniversary and to mar the event the mother, Mrs. Shevill and her daughter, Mrs. Prudhoe will take part and they will have another record played. The record that Mrs. Prudhoe requested for her mother ten years ago was a favourite of both of them - Bing Crosby singing "Irish Lullaby"

What is the Anniversary Record going to be ?.

"We requested Alma Gogan singing "Twenty Tiny Fingers" because my daughter is expecting a baby soon. But B.B.C Producer Richard Kelly thought we should have another Bing Crosby Record", Mrs. Shevill told me. So another Bing Crosby record it is. The title is "Shine" on which Bing is joined by the Mills Brothers.

EVENING CHRONICLE - MAR 12 1956 - BING CROSBY HAS EYE OPERATION.

Bing Crosby has undergone an eye operation in California for removal of a growth inside an eyelid. He was said to be in excellent condition and expected to resume normal activities in a day or two.

Ted Presents - "THE YOUNG BING CROSBY"

Hi there fellow members !, recently an R.C.A. Victor American L.P. passed into my collection and as H.M.V. will no doubt be issuing it here soon, I would like to say a few words about it and maybe "Cheat" and quote a little from the excellent write-up on the record sleeve. The titles on this record may not be familiar to you. I must confess I'd heard but few of these early items before. Some such as "I'm Gonna Get You", "That's Grandma", "One More Time", "Fool me Some More". I was hearing for the first time.

The Orchestras accompanying the "Young Crosby" are for the most part Gus Arnheim with Paul Whiteman plus Harry Barris and Al Rinker helping out on the other tracks.

On "I'm Coming Virginia" Bing shows something of his feeling for a Jazz Number, and also his association with great Jazz musicians.

Another little point of interest about this L.P. is that it includes one of the first two-sides on which Bing was billed above the Band. The song as I expect you've guessed is the early version of "Wrap your Troubles in Dreams".

In these re-issues there is much more than mere nostalgic value as even when engaged in the serious business of being a Crooner Bing's natural ease shines through, giving a lift and a lilt to otherwise ordinary material and gaining a decided advantage over some of his more pretentious competitors.

In virtually anything that the "Throaty Warbler" tackles, whether bubbling or torchy, you can immediately sense what might well be called the unique essence of Bing. He had it then, ha has it still, and it makes anything by Bing Crosby at any stage of the game, fun to listen to.

When Bob Hope boarded the "S.S. United States" for his current trip to England, the Boat's whistle blew. Quipped Hope: "There goes one of Crosby's low notes".

NEWCASTLE JOURNAL - MARCH - 5 - 1956.

CROONER RUBY HOPES TO MEET BING

20 year old Ruby Murray was on her way to America last night to a three week Hollywood - New York coast to coast trip. Said Ruby "I am all very excited about it all I've never been farther than Germany before. I don't know what is expected of me or who I am going to see. That is all being arranged for me - but I do hope that means I'll meet Bing Crosby.

We hope Ruby realised her ambition for we have it on good authority that she is a great fan of Bing's - and never fails to praise him whenever she can - we're grateful to Ireland's own Ruby Murray for he praise of a fellow Top-recording-Star, Bing Crosby. Ed.

DAILY MIRROR - MARCH - 8 1956.

"Housewife's Choice" is ten years old this week. Who is it's most popular choice ? Some romantic newcomer ? Not a bobbit - the singer the women go for is still bald, tubby, Bing Crosby, and he's fifty-two in May.

P.S. To Daily Mirror - You might have mentioned that "El Bingo" still has the most lucrative voice in Show Business - also we're not worried about that bald - tubby bit. Remember Bing's recent recording of "On Moonlight Bat" with son Gary on which he told us personally that, "I've lost considerable off the top and put on a little around the middle". Such modesty - but that's Bing for you - He certainly is the greatest.

FRIENDS OF BING - No.2. - EDDIE LANG by Stan White.

The name of Eddie Lang must surely have caught the eye at one time or another of collectors of Bing's early recordings. Eddie, who's real name was Salvatore Mazarro was one of Bing's greatest friends in the early days of Bing's career. Rarely did Bing take part in a recording session in those days without having Eddie Lang along with him to contribute some of his greatest Guitar playing to the record. Although space does not permit mention of all the Crosby - Lang recordings, here are just a few of the most famous. "I've Got the World on a String", "Thanks", "Some of These Days", "Please" and that beautiful Irving Berlin Ballad "How Deep is the Ocean". Eddie was also present in the Band when Bing made his first C.B.S. Broadcast in 1931.

Eddie Lang who was one of the original "Five Pennies" with trumpet player Red Nichols, was credited by many people as being the originator of swing guitar playing. He was a great technician and his recordings are still widely sought after even today by "Jazz Collectors".

Apart from recording with Bing he recorded with such great names as: Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey, Bix Biederbeck, Bud Freeman, Gene Kropa, Benny Goodman, Joe Venuti, Jean Goldkette, Paul Whiteman and many others. One of his most famous recordings was made in the company of trumpet player Bix Biederbeck and is called "I'm Coming Virginia". A brilliant record by any standards.

When Bing was on tour Eddie was the mainstay of his accompaniment, very often just Bing and Eddie on stage together.

Eddie suffered from a chronically inflamed sore throat but would not seek medical advice, one day however, Bing persuaded him to see a doctor who at once advised an operation - Eddie Lang never came out from under the anesthetic they gave him. The year was 1933 and Bing lost a great friend who he has never forgotten, and Jazz lovers the world over, mourned one of the greatest musicians ever: Eddie Lang.

"Friends of Bing" is an exclusive "Crosby Post" presentation and Stan will present the second of this new series in our next edition.

Frank Conducts an Enquiry on "BING'S CHOICE OF SONG TITLES"

My little mention of my friendly argument with Stan and Ted about Bing's current choice of song titles has brought me quite a flood of mail - some for, and some against my views - here are a representative selection of these welcome view-points:-

Rita Tomlinson - 56, Credenhill Street, Streatham, London, S.W.16.

"I certainly think it would be a good thing if some, but not all of Bing's records were of the popular tunes. I say this because as I go to school, I hear many views on singers and records and although nobody would deny, Bing is a great artiste, many of the girls seem to have forgotten about him as they never hear Crosby records of the popular tunes. But for myself I don't really mind as long as Bing keeps singing, that's all right for me."

Harry Marrs, Manor House Bungalow, Stapleton, Nr. Darlington, Co. Durham.

"I would say that the ones that are worthy of him are few and far between.

What he needs to put him back where he belongs, at the top of the best sellers are more songs like "Stranger in Paradise" but Stan certainly has something when he says Bing's latter discs are most original, besides being very entertaining. I just wish he had recorded "Suddenly there's a Valley", this was real Bing stuff."

Miss E. Carrick, 1, St. Mary's Place, Dorset St, Dublin, Ireland.

"All I can say about Bing is that he is letting a good voice go to loss by not recording good songs".

Eric Jackson - 96, Winterwell Road, West Melton, Nr. Rotherham, Yorks.

"2 or 3 years ago, Bing's choice of material was getting below average, then suddenly, wham! we had some great numbers from "The King and I", and such 'Pop' numbers as "Young at Heart", "I Get So Lonely", "Changing Partners", etc. But since then Bing's choice of songs has gradually declined. Let's take a look at some of the songs Bing has sung on his Show this past two years. Songs like, "Wanted", "Answer Me", also those fine duets with Louis Armstrong and what about the Harmony Singing by Bing, Gary and Linsay Crosby, most of these would reach the million mark I'm sure."

.....

All for now of our members viewpoints, but I'd like to hear any further views from those of you who haven't written up to now. Ed.

A number of members have written to say they are finding it difficult to contact Bing. We suggest you address your letters to Bing's Business address which is- No. 9028, Sunset Boulevard, Zone 46, Hollywood, California, United States of America.

Excerpt from "WE CALLED IT MUSIC" by EDDIE CONDON the famous
Guitar Player and Band Leader.

Paragraph - "THE THREE DUECES"

The Goldkette Band broke up in New York. Some of the boys including Bix went with Paul Whiteman, who had an outfit as big as himself. Late in the Autumn they hit the Balaban-Katz circuit, opening at the Chicago Theater for a week. Bix arrived in the usual predicament - No Tuxedo. Jimmy MacPartland contributed the Jacket and Pants; I dug up the fixtures: studs, shirt and tie. When Bix stood up to take his chorus on "Sugar" Jimmy's pants hit him halfway to the knees. He was wearing white socks.

The Show had everything but a slackwire Juggler. The rhythm Boys sang, one of the trombone players did a number on a bicycle pump and Henry Bussy, who wrote "Hot Lips" soloed on "When Day is Done".

After the Show I met Bix and took him to a Speakeasy around the corner at 222 North State Street. Some of the Whiteman Boys followed us. Suddenly everybody was there and everybody kept playing with Bix. Some singers arrived. But they kept quiet and listened. They were the Rhythm Boys - Al Rinker, Harry Barris, Bing Crosby, sharp looking boys slightly young.

We played until dawn: I bought a quart of milk off the wagon on the way home. One night I called for Bix backstage and he said, "we are going to a party out in Cicero. Some guy has invited Crosby. He is going to send a car". The three of us stood outside the theater and waited. Crosby was slim, dapper, casual and full of larnygitis. "It's the water in Chicago", Bix explained. "It's full of germs". I asked

Crosby who the friend was who had invited him to Cicero. "Some big shot", Crosby said. "He's throwing a party at a place called the Greyhound."

A long black car drove up to the kerb and we were told to get in to the back seat. At The Greyhound we were greeted with open arms and bulging hips. There was a lot of drinking and pretty soon Bix was at the piano and Crosby was trying to sing through his Laryngitis. About the time I was beginning to worry about internal drowning, the long black car returned and we were put into the same back seat again. The guests waved us off with the same open arms and bulging hips. As we drove along Bix said drowsily, "Lovely Party", "Lovely People". Crosby croaked.

After a while I said to Bix, "Remember the guy you kept telling to shut up?". "Sure", Bix said. "Why didn't I knock him down? Because I'm too good natured".

"I thought you might like to know his name". I said.

"The hell with his name", Bix said.

"His name is Capone", I said. "Bottles Capone".

"Lovely People", Crosby croaked.

Poor "Bottles!" He was always getting pushed around.

In his "Rhythm" days, Bing must have found himself in some very exciting spots, but I doubt very much whether he would like to return to the scene of the following story - Reprint from "Révaille" 1956.

CROONER WAS NEARLY MURDERED by Peter Jones.

Here's an exciting story about a famous Crooner. Call him Harry. He was a fine singer, even in his early days, but he was strictly a lad from the country.

He looked for fame in New York - at that time a gangster ridden city where they used to settle little arguments with machine guns. Harry was unsure of himself and started hitting the bottle. Just to show he was one of the boys. One night he met up with a tight lipped mob who drank hard. He'd never had so much liquor before. And he finally came round in a strange room. He still had the tough guys with him. One told him: "You passed out, you'll be safer here with us". Harry forced a smile. Then feeling horribly sick, he dashed out to the toilet. And that was the luckiest move in his life. While he was there he heard a sharp rat-tat-tat. Men in the next room were being killed. A rival gang had moved in, sprayed bullets all round the room - and left a pile of corpses behind. Young Harry stood rooted to the spot. Finally he staggered out and was seen by Policemen. "Get out of here", snapped one. Harry got.....like lightning. His drinking pals were a bunch of hoodlums who'd been tied up in a mass murder in Chicago. Rival thugs had caught up with them. And nearly caught up with Harry as well.

But Harry Crosby lived to become a world-famous star. You know him better as.....Bing.

Ed. I must express my thanks to a pal of mine, Joe Brady, who brought the above tasty tit-bit to my attention - Many thanks Joe !.

Bill Taylor reviews "THE GROANER IN THE GROOVE".

This is about the most difficult task that I could be given, to try to comment on Records that just haven't happened. I honestly believe that for some unknown reason, Decca are holding out on us. I have been given to understand that Bing has cut several sides in the States, yet all we have been offered so far is a poor effort called "Farewell" from the film "Davy Crockett", backed with an essentially American number, that has been issued in the States for some time, why Bing decided; if he did; to give us this one, beats me completely. A little bird has whispered in my ear that there is something better in the offing. Although I haven't actually heard it, the disc-jockeys say that "In a Little Spanish Town", has some of the old "Groaner's" Magic, I just can't wait till I lay my hands on this long awaited platter. Nothing to report regards any further re-issues, except that I believe that the "X" Series have already been withdrawn in the States. The City Market says that Decca have bought out R.C.A. I wonder if Decca intend to Re-issue some of the Old Victor labels. What with Phillips taking over American Columbia and now Decca Pipping H.M.V., what fun and games we would have, if they all start re-issues. Let's hope that Decca have released some of those Bing's by the next "Crosby Post".

Bing Singeerly, Bill..

The following new issues have been announced by Brunswick and Bill will review these in our next issue as we are unable to delay the Press date of this issue owing to the delay which will be caused by the current dispute in the Printing Trade.

78RPM Brunswick 05543 "In A Little Spanish Town"

"Old Man River"

33 $\frac{1}{3}$ RPM L.P. Collectors Classics Volume 4. Bing Sings the Song from two of his early films "Waikiki Wedding" and "Double or Nothing"., and a further L.P. under the title of "Favourite Hawiian Songs" on which Bing sings 8 of his top Hawiian recordings, including "Sweet Lielani", "Hawiian Paradise", "Blue Hawiia", etc.

CLUB RAFFLE - RESULT

1st PRIZE - Rita Tomlinson, 56, Credenhill Street, Streatham, S.W.16.
2nd " Lil Williams, The Dingle Tuck Shop, The Dingle, Colwyn Bay,
3rd " Jean Gosling, 23, Thursley Road, Mottingham, SE9. /N.Wales.
4th " E. Carrick, 1, St. Mary's Place, Dorset Street, Dublin, Ireland.

Our grateful thanks to those of you who supported the above effort. We know you'll be happy to learn that the Raffle was a great help in our March advert. campaign.

FILM REVIEW - "ANYTHING GOES" VARIETY, 25 Jan.1955.

Paramount starts the new year off with a mock musical package, borrowing the title and songs from that yesteryear stage hit, "Anything Goes" It's a bright offering for Easter release, geared to play an engaging tune at the wickets.

Male topliners Bing Crosby and Donald O'Connor go together as though born to give the zip to what scripter Sidney Sheldon has concocted here under the stage title. While there are Cole Porter songs and the legit handle is still carried, that's about all that remains of what went on behind the footlights, and there's scant resemblance to Paramount's 1936 film version, in which Crosby also starred with Ethel Merman.

Script provides Crosby with plenty of those sotto voice, throw-away cracks he and his fans dote on, as well as an overall comedic setup against which to bounce the musical numbers. Plot, simply, has Crosby and O'Connor agreeing to do a B'way musical together after European vacations. Abroad, each signs a femme star and the remainder concerns fitting the gals in with previous plans.

Jeanmaire has two ballets that are slicks. First is "I Get a Kick Out of You", staged by Roland Petit, and for which she wears an incredibly tight, closer-than skin, black outfit. Second is the "Dream Ballet", with a Times Square setting staged by Nick Castle, that segues from the Crosby crooning of "All Through the Night" to the dancer. In addition to the terp work, Jeanmaire unleashes a piquant personality that catches on big.

Musical humor gets an early start when Crosby and O'Connor pop all the corn possible on "Ya Gotta Give the People Hoke", one of the new Sammy Cahn-James C Van Heusen tunes, It's a howler, as is "A Second-Hand Turban and A Crystal Ball", also new, which the two males work over later in the footage. O'Connor has a good solo song-dance in "You Can Bounce Right Back", working with rubber balls and moppets. A clever tune-terp sequence is the rehearsal aboardship to "You're the Top", in which Crosby and Miss Gaynor O'Connor and Jeanmaire work out without being aware of the other team.

AN 'X' HERE _____ signifies that your subscription is now due - please send an uncrossed P.O. for 7/6d to our President, to continue your membership in "THE CROSBY SOCIETY". The P.O. should be made payable to 'Dorothy Hardiman'.
